

## Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending July 4, 2004

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 0.5 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending July 4, 2004**. The persistent wet weather continued this week, with an average of 3.32 inches of precipitation throughout the State. The unusually high amount of rainfall has begun to take its toll on all crops, with reports of nutrient loss and disease in row crops and reduced hay quality. Soil moisture was rated 20 percent adequate and 80 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2003	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Silked	97	92	91	92	1	6	16	49	28
	Dough	60	29	56	58					
	Dent	20	--	14	19					
Cotton	Squaring	81	66	73	86	2	8	22	48	20
	Setting Bolls	30	7	28	35					
Rice	Heading	9	3	9	7	0	1	13	67	19
Sorghum	Heading	65	40	51	48	0	0	21	67	12
	Turning Color	2	--	--	--					
Soybeans	Blooming	80	68	66	62	1	4	15	54	26
	Setting Pods	64	38	38	31					
Wheat	Mature	100	99	100	100	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	95	93	99	99					
Hay (Cool Season) (Warm Season)	Harvested	100	99	100	100	5	9	29	38	19
		30	28	51	50					
Sweetpotatoes	Planted	76	71	84	93	1	6	25	58	10
Watermelons	Harvested	35	22	47	34	0	8	33	56	3
Blueberries						0	1	4	73	22
Cattle						0	3	23	52	22
Pasture						0	8	23	54	15

### County Agent Comments

"Continued rain showers have kept farmers out of the field. There has been a slight rise in insects in soybeans and cotton and some mold and frogeye is showing up in soybeans. Producers are beginning to see foot problems in cattle because of wet conditions."

— Tim Needham, Tippah

"The story in Madison County is rain, rain, rain! All row crops are beginning to suffer from the wet weather—everything has been halted due to the wet conditions."

— Otis L. Davis, Madison

"Soils are saturated over the entire county. Farmers are forced to harvest poor-quality hay because of excess rains and leaving many cuttings to be lost."

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“Most of the area has continued to receive rain nearly every day for the past 2-3 weeks. Some cotton and peanut acres were never planted and may be put into beans if the fields dry out enough to plant in the next week. Some cotton will begin to bloom in the next week, while some of the younger cotton will just begin to set squares. Stands are skippy in many areas because of the excessive rainfall, and weeds are getting away from many growers. Corn continues to look better than average for the area.”

— Mike Howell, Covington

“Water uptake of blueberries and watermelons is causing splitting of these fruits. Frequent rains are causing difficult harvest of any appreciable fruits. All other crops such as corn and forages are responding to the frequent rainfall. Cattle continue to respond well on the abundant forage.”

— Allen McReynolds, Wayne

“Rains continue to keep growers out of the field. We need some dry weather.”

— Don Respess, Bolivar

“Some crops are woolly – we need a good week of dry weather to clean them up.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“The rain every day has caused saturated soils. Roots are staying wet and causing cotton to lose a lot of fruit. Sunshine is needed.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“We have had another week of rain and delayed crop operations.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Producers are behind on their weed and insect control work due to wet fields.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“We saw the sun for the first time in several days late last week. Some crop damage was observed due to standing water or overflow from ditches and streams. There is probably not too great a loss overall, but for those involved, it seems very important.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“The effects of abnormally high rainfall have begun to become very apparent, especially in cotton and soybeans. Nutrient losses and disease are taking a heavy toll in terms of potential yield. Corn has also suffered to a somewhat lesser degree. We need to return to a normal weather pattern in order to produce respectable yields in 2004.”

— Ernie Flint, Attala

“Nutrient losses and disease are becoming more evident due to the rains. Normal weather needs to return with a little less rain.”

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery

“The rain just won't quit! Corn and soybeans are pollinating great, but cotton needs more heat units. Herbicide and insecticide applications are getting further behind. Southwestern corn borer trap counts increased this week, but were well below threshold levels.”

— Dr. Bill Burdine, Chickasaw

“Wet is the name of the game in east Mississippi this week. We are seeing high levels of Northern leaf blight in mainly two corn hybrids that will cause some yield reduction. Some flat-planted soybeans are suffering from all of this rain. Red crown rot is showing up more every day and we are starting to pick up some stem canker in our soybean fields.”

— Dr. Dennis B. Reginelli, Noxubee

“Recent rains have made it very difficult for watermelon growers to get melons out of the fields.”

— Thomas E. Brewer, Jefferson Davis

“We had a little break from the rain over the weekend, but some areas got some heavy rain again today. There was one report of lightening killing some cattle. Cotton is hurting from so much rain. Beef producers are really anxious to cut some hay. Pastures are growing well, but they need some dry weather to put out some fertilizer.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“It is too wet!!! With daily thunderstorms very little can be done outdoors. Most people have abandoned their gardens to grass and diseases. Hay quality will most likely be fair to poor due to the age and condition of the grasses when farmers are able to cut and harvest. Watermelons and other commercial vegetables have been adversely affected by all of the rain over the last couple of weeks.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“The ground is too wet to do much. The rain is expected to slack over the weekend, but surplus moisture makes much fieldwork next to impossible. The grass is growing!”

— Judith Breland, Stone

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Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

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**Dr. Joseph H. McGilberry, Director**

**Southern Regional Climate Center**  
**Louisiana State University**  
**Elizabeth Mons**  
**Service Climatologist**

**U.S. Department of Agriculture**  
**Mississippi Agricultural**  
**Statistics Service**  
**Thomas L. Gregory, Director**

**Weather Summary from June 28, 2004 to July 4, 2004 for Mississippi**

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston				80		2.52	+1.40	5	9.61				
Cleveland				81		2.52	+1.55	4	4.86				
Tunica				81		2.57	+1.50	6	6.53				
Extreme/Average				81		2.52	+1.44	5					0.10
2. North-Central													
Hickory Flat	84	66	75	78	-3	5.07	+4.01	4	10.62				
Calhoun City	87	53	74	79	-5	1.96	+0.91	6	10.08				
Independence	84	66	75	79	-4	3.33	+2.32	5	6.56				
Oxford				79		2.25	+1.27	6	6.86				
Extreme/Average	87	53	75	79	-4	3.15	+2.10	5	9.09				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	90	68	76	78	-2	2.95	+1.97	6	10.71				
Iuka	85	60	73	76	-3	3.42	+2.47	6	8.70				
Ripley	87	64	75	78	-3	2.43	+1.31	5	9.08				
Tupelo						3.39		7	9.82				
Verona				80		1.54	+0.61	5	7.13				
Extreme/Average	90	60	75	79	-4	3.05	+2.06	6	9.58				0.17
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	88	68	77	81	-4	2.74	+1.64	6	10.38				
Rolling Fork				81		2.48	+1.50	4	8.03	92	75	83	
Stoneville				82		6.63	+5.69	5	12.65				0.15
Yazoo City	89	68	77	81	-4	1.27	+0.36	5	7.27				
Extreme/Average	89	68	77	82	-5	3.28	+2.26	5	10.10	92	75	83	0.15
5. Central													
Canton	90	66	77	81	-4	4.57	+3.79	6	9.44				
Carthage				80		3.27	+2.39	5	8.61				
Lexington	88	66	76	79	-3	2.31	+1.40	5	11.28				
Eupora				79		1.76	+0.78	6	9.82				
Extreme/Average	90	66	76	80	-4	2.98	+1.97	6	9.78				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	88	68	77	79	-2	1.57	+0.62	6	6.25				0.11
Houston	88	66	76	78	-2	2.25	+1.16	6	10.98				
Louisville	86	63	74	78	-4	6.00	+4.88	4	12.25				
State University	89	67	77	80	-3	4.86	+3.88	6	10.66	82	77	79	0.20
Extreme/Average	89	63	76	80	-4	3.67	+2.62	6	9.30	82	77	79	0.15
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	88	66	77	81	-4	6.86	+5.69	5	14.11	89	75	81	
Natchez				81		2.55	+1.57	6	5.40				
Oakley	90	66	77	80	-3	2.96	+1.98	5	9.05	85	75	80	
Vicksburg	87	67	77			3.26		4	10.95				
Extreme/Average	90	66	77	81	-4	3.91	+2.86	5	9.88	89	75	80	
8. South-Central													
Collins	88	66	78	80	-2	2.80	+1.79	6	6.99				
Columbia				81		3.10	+1.87	7	8.67				
Tylertown	91	68	78	80	-2	2.91	+1.63	7	13.47				
Extreme/Average	91	66	78	81	-3	2.94	+1.79	7	9.71				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont						2.08		6	9.99				
Hattiesburg	90	64	77	81	-4	6.61	+5.46	6	12.71				
Laurel				80		5.76	+4.66	7	11.45				
Newton	89	63	76	79	-3	4.37	+3.33	6	9.23	86	72	78	0.14
Extreme/Average	90	63	76	80	-4	4.71	+3.58	6	11.38	86	72	78	0.14
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis				81		2.19	+0.80	4	5.77				
Gulfport	88	70	80	82	-2	0.73	-0.68	4	6.48				
Pascagoula	89	69	79	80	-1	1.56	+0.08	4	1.58				
Poplarville	91	65	79	81	-2	2.73	+1.41	6	10.92	89	73	80	
Waveland	92	71	81	81	0	0.88	-0.52	7	8.61				
Extreme/Average	92	65	79	81	-2	1.62	+0.23	5	8.67	89	73	80	0.15
State	92	53	77	80	-3	3.32	+2.24	6	9.80	92	72	80	

DFN = Departure from Normal.